

BLUE CEE

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MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING IN CROATIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

2. Contents

Contents of this presentation are:

- the DIRECTIVE of the European Parliament and the Council on the establishment of a framework for spatial planning of the marine area
- Legislation RC in regard to that,
- Spatial planning system in RC
- Maritime Spatial Planning platform (MSP) and
- Current situation in the Republic of Croatia in regard to maritime spatial planning and planning in the exclusive economic zone

3. The DIRECTIVE

The need to establish the Directive arose due to high and rapidly increasing demand for maritime space for different purposes

- The Directive states that spatial planning and management of the marine area requires an integrated planning and management approach and should strive for the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.
- The result of the Directive should be a Maritime spatial plan
- The directive establishes the framework for maritime spatial planning, but the member states are responsible and competent for determining the format and content of maritime spatial plans
- Member States are obliged to submit to the Commission copies of their maritime spatial plans and all updated data for monitoring the implementation of the Directive and report on progress
- The Directive does not apply to Land spatial planning
- The body responsible for the implementation of the Directive in the Republic of Croatia is Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, Spatial Development Institute

- Public participation is established by notifying all interested parties and consulting with relevant stakeholders and competent authorities as well as the interested public in the early stages of the development of maritime spatial plans

4. Maritime spatial plan

The member state draws up a Maritime spatial plan, which determines the sea area use, the spatial and temporal distribution of activities, and the interests that may include:

- aquaculture areas
- fishing areas
- facilities and infrastructure for research, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas and other energy resources, minerals and aggregates, and for the production of energy from renewable sources
- maritime transport routes and traffic flows
- military training areas
- nature and species preservation sites and protected areas
- raw material extraction areas
- scientific research
- submarine cables and pipelines
- tourism
- underwater cultural heritage

5. Legislation

This timeline shows that legislation in Croatia is in coordinance with EU regulations.

- 2008 Barcelona Convention or the Protocol on the Integrated Management of the Mediterranean Coastal Area was signed,
- 2011 entered into force
- 2012 Republic of Croatia ratified the Protocol by passing the Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
- 2014, MSP Directive was adopted
- In 2021, the Croatian Parliament adopted the Decision on the declaration of the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea
- In 2017, 2019 and 2023, provisions from the Directive were introduced into the Spatial Planning Act

In the future sectoral laws should also be harmonized with the topic of marine environment planning (maritime sectoral law, environmental and nature protection, economy, especially tourism, energy, fisheries, cultural heritage, etc.)

6. Legislation Spatial Planning Act

The marine area is planned through:

1. State spatial development plan
2. Spatial plan of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea
3. Spatial Plans of Areas with Special Features that include the sea area
4. County Spatial Plans and Spatial development plans of Cities or Municipalities that include the sea area
5. General Urban Plans and Urban Development plans that include the sea area.

The Spatial Development Institute (Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets MPGI) is obliged to:

1. inform the European Commission about the adoption of this Act
2. submit to the European Commission a list of institutes designated for the implementation of the Act and
3. inform the European Commission about changes to the above information.

Spatial Development Institute is assigned to deliver to the EU copies of state-level spatial plans and

Spatial planning institutes of counties whose territory includes the sea area are obliged to submit to the European Commission copies of regional and local level spatial plans, in their area that include the sea area.

7. Physical planning system of Croatia

Physical planning system (PPS) ensures the conditions for the use, management and protection of the territory of the Republic of Croatia

Physical planning documents and Spatial plans include both land and sea areas
SEIA (Strategic environment impact assessment) is mandatory for spatial plans

Valid spatial planning documents and spatial plans have already included most of the Maritime spatial planning MSP topics and requirements arising from Directives and the ICZM Protocol.

Spatial plans of the new generation, whose development is planned in the coming period, will contain all the obligations transferred to the legal framework.

8. Spatial Development Strategy

Spatial development strategy of the Republic of Croatia established the need for maritime spatial planning

9. Spatial Planning Program

The Spatial Planning Program also establishes the need for maritime spatial planning.

10. Implementation documents

Valid implementation documents that include the maritime planning are

State plans

State Spatial Development Plan

- The decision on the development of the State Spatial Development Plan includes the planning of the sea, i.e. the internal and territorial sea area

Spatial plan of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea

- Prepared expert-analytical background study as preparation for the Spatial Plan

Spatial Plans of Areas with Special Features

- Some drafted or in progress (SP NP Mljet, ...)

Regional plans

- County Spatial Plans made for all coastal counties

Local plans

- Spatial Development Plans of Cities and Municipalities made for all coastal Local Government Units

11. Spatial plan EEZ RC in the Adriatic sea

On February 5, 2021, the CROATIAN PARLIAMENT passed a DECISION ON THE DECLARATION OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

The Croatian Parliament declares the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Croatia covers the maritime space from the outer border of the territorial sea in the direction of the open sea to its outer border permitted by general international law.

The external borders of the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Croatia will be determined by international agreements on demarcation with countries whose coasts lie opposite or laterally in relation to the Republic of Croatia.

12. Spatial plan EEZ RC in the Adriatic sea

Progress regarding the Spatial plan EEZ exclusive economic zone RC in the Adriatic sea is as follows:

2021.

Spatial Development Institute concluded with Spatial Planning Institute of DNC_ Agreement on the preparation of professional analytical work as part of the preparatory works for the preparation of the Spatial Plan of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea - data collection, analysis and processing

2023

The report has been delivered. It contains collected data from relevant stakeholders, sorted according to given topics from the Agreement.

By the end of 2023. It is expected that

The Spatial Development Institute will select the authorized person for the preparation of the SEIA and the Minister will adopt the Decision.

13. Monitoring

Monitoring of the changes is drafted in The Report on the Spatial Situation on State / regional /and local level

14. Data platform

Physical planning information system (ISPU) and its modules is a data platform made using EU funds in an EU project worth 17.5 million euros,

- Through the ISPU system citizens can submit requests for obtaining permits for the construction and use of buildings, as well as monitor all changes in spatial plans, obtain information on potential construction locations, and access the database of energy certificates.
- As part of the project, 8 e-services were upgraded: GEOportal, ISPU-locator, eNekretnine, eCatalog, ePlanovi, ePermit, eArchive and eEnergy certificate as well as eSpatial inspection and eBuilding diary
- The eCatalog has 7,535 spatial plans

15. Spatial planning subjects

The Republic of Croatia has Spatial Development Institute in the MPGI (Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets), 20 County Spatial Planning Institutes (one for each County) and one Institute for Spatial Planning of the City of Zagreb.

Seven out of 20 County institutes are located in coastal area and they together with the state Spatial Development Institute take care of the implementation of laws and directives.

Spatial planning of the maritime area is not new for the Republic of Croatia, since it is a coastal country and has a tradition of planning both on land and at sea.

16. Participants

In the process of spatial plan development we have four groups of participants:

1. State, regional (county) and local self-government bodies that ensure the effectiveness of spatial planning by adopting spatial plans and other related documents
2. Bodies that ensure that the specified plans and documents are based on expertise
3. Public legal bodies
4. Citizens and non-governmental organizations

17. Planning Process proposal

On this slide we see the Planning Process Proposal

18. The platform

The EU Maritime spatial planning Platform is:

- A service for Member States to share relevant knowledge and experiences on Maritime Spatial Planning.
- an information and communication gateway designed to offer support to all EU Member States in their efforts to implement Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the years to come.

RC is located in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea Basin in the Adriatic Sea
Croatian status on MSP platform is: “MSP process ongoing”

Croatia has not yet adopted an MS Plan but the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia is covered by various spatial plans, which comprise both terrestrial and marine areas. Following the requirements of the Physical Planning Act, preparation of the State Spatial Development Plan for the entire terrestrial and marine area of Republic of Croatia has been initiated.

19. The platform

BLUECEE project

It is visible on the Platform that Poland and Bulgaria have drawn up the Spatial Plan of the marine area, and that Croatia and Romania are in the process of drafting

20. Territorial organisation

This slide shows the territorial organisation of Croatia according to NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 statistical regions.

21. Protected coastal area (PCA)

The protected coastal area of the sea is an area of special interest for the Republic of Croatia

- Adriatic Croatia is a HR03 region
- 7 coastal counties make up Adriatic Croatia with 133 municipalities/cities
- Protected area consists of 73 coastal municipalities/cities

Specific topics in marine spatial planning in the Republic of Croatia are

- islands
- limited space
- protected areas
- pressures
- legal issues

22. Croatia current situation MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

The spatial planning system ensures the conditions for the use/protection/management of the territory of the Republic of Croatia, both land and sea. Plans and physical planning documents that contain sea areas are:

- Spatial Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia
- State plans
 - State Spatial Development Plan
 - Spatial plan of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea
 - Spatial Plans of Areas with Special Features (protected parts of nature)
 - Urban Development Plan of state significance
- Regional plans
 - County Spatial Plan
 - Urban Development Plan of county significance
- Local plans
 - Spatial planning of the municipality/city
 - General urban plan, Urban development plan

Spatial plans include both land and sea

A strategic impact assessment is mandatory for these spatial plans

Spatial plans of the new generation, whose development is planned in the coming period, will contain all the obligations transferred to the legal framework

23. Comment

- On May 13, 2015, the Dubrovnik-Neretva County passed a Conclusion regarding the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the area of DNC, which includes any planning that may lead to the risk of possible operations for tourism, fishing, aquaculture, corridors for nautical tourism and cruise ships .

- The map shows the depths of the Adriatic Sea and the methods of establishing offshore wind turbine towers...
- On the following map we see only a part of the sea use activities in the entire Adriatic area (traffic routes, exploitation of hydrocarbons, areas for conducting military exercises, ammunition disposal areas, prohibited areas and established navigation routes) which shows the amount of activities that are already present in the area of the open sea.

24. Maritime planning topics

And here are some maps showing maritime spatial planning topics.....

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The end